

RADIO STAMPS
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Radio Station HCJB, "The Voice of the Andes",
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Program 12

Introduction

Hello again to radio listeners and stamp collectors around the world. You're tuned to the monthly program that's all about the fun of collecting stamps on the topic of radio. This program combines the fun of listening to international radio and collecting stamps all about radio. Collecting radio stamps is another great way to enjoy the radio hobby.

Regular features on this program include descriptions of stamps to collect, and discussions of radio subjects on stamps. I also have contests to win radio stamps.

I hope you'll join me each month, here on HCJB. I also hope you'll write to me with your comments and news for the program. If there's a radio stamp subject you'd like to hear about, drop me a line and let me know.

Thank You CKCU

I hope you noticed the improvement today in the audio quality of the Radio Stamps program. The program this month was recorded in the studio of radio station CKCU in Ottawa, the capital city of Canada. CKCU is a community radio station, based on the campus of Carleton University. When it was established in 1975, CKCU was the first campus based radio station licenced in Canada. It can be heard in the national capital area on the frequency of 93.1 MHz in the FM band. A special thanks today to CKCU for the station's kind help in improving the Radio Stamps program.

HCJB QSL

On the last program I had a contest to win first day covers of the Cuban stamp, issued in 1986, for the 25th anniversary of international broadcasting by Radio Havana Cuba. I'll be drawing the winners soon and announcing them on an upcoming program. I also had a collecting tip for the new set of 4 stamps, and special pictorial postmark, from Australia, to be issued on June 13, for "radio days". This is program number 12 and the subject today is radio inventors on stamps.

I also want to mention that the latest addition to my radio stamps collection is a QSL card. It's the only verification card in the world, that I know of, from a broadcasting station, that has an illustration of a radio stamp on it. In fact, 3 different radio stamps are reproduced in full colour on this unique QSL. It's a real collector's item for me because I received this special QSL card for my reception report of the DX Partyline program, right here on HCJB. The 3 stamps are the commemorative issues of 1981 from Ecuador for the 50th anniversary that year of HCJB. The Scott catalogue numbers for these stamps are 1014, C721 and C722.

This attractive QSL card is one of a series, first available in 1989 from HCJB, that highlights Ecuadorian postage stamps. I use this example as a reminder to all radio stamp collectors that you don't need to limit your collection to just postage stamps. Your collection can include a wide variety of philatelic items, such as meter stamps, postmarks and even radio station QSL cards.

Radio Inventors

Now back to radio inventors on stamps. The development of radio as we know it today is not just the result of one person's work. Radio was made possible by the research of many experimenters, inventors and scientists, dating back to the 1600s. There are quite a few of the well known inventors on postage stamps that you can collect, like Volta, Hertz and Marconi. There are also lesser known inventors, but equally important, that are commemorated by postage stamps, like Popov from Russia, Murgas from Slovakia, and Fessenden from Canada.

Here's a quick question to test your knowledge of radio history, as you listen to my voice today, being transmitted around the world by radio waves. Who invented AM radio, and was the first person to transmit the human voice by radio waves? No, it wasn't Marconi. It was a Canadian, and his name was Reginald Fessenden.

Reginald Aubrey Fessenden was born in Canada in 1866. He was a contemporary of Marconi and Edison, but he was strongly opposed to Marconi's theory of radio transmission. Marconi believed that a radio transmission was a whiplash effect, a sudden impulse created by the violence of the electric spark, and shot out like the sound of a whip-crack in the air. Against the stormy protests of every recognized authority, Fessenden insisted that what we now call radio worked by continuous waves, as ripples, like ripples in the water, that moved in widening circles until they surrounded the receiving antenna. He also insisted that these continuous waves could make possible voice and other sound transmissions.

Fessenden's ideas were revolutionary. He was convinced that he could send voice by radio waves, without wires. Edison, on the other hand, thought this was as likely as man's chances of jumping over the moon. Fessenden stuck to his notions, and, on December 23, 1900, he transmitted history's first voice message. On Christmas eve, in 1906, Fessenden made the first radio broadcast

in history. From his station at Brant Rock, on the east coast of the United States, in Massachusetts, he broadcast to the ships of the United Fruit Company in the Caribbean. During that historic transmission, Fessenden made a short announcement, played a phonograph record, played "Oh Holy Night" on his violin, and sang the last verse.

Fessenden is credited with over 500 inventions, including the depth sounder, the height indicator for airplanes, and scientific inventions for promoting safety at sea. These are outstanding achievements on their own, but Fessenden's greatest contribution to history was his invention of AM radio and the heterodyne system of radio reception. This year, 1991, marks the 125th anniversary of Fessenden's birth, and the 85th anniversary of the first radio broadcast in history.

Even today, there is only 1 postage stamp in the world that honours Fessenden and his invention of AM radio. It was issued by Canada on June 25, 1987. The Scott catalogue number is 1135. It was issued in a set of 4 different stamps to commemorate Canadian inventors. This stamp has a denomination of \$0.36 and features a portrait of Fessenden, with his radio receiver in the foreground. The background is illustrated with technical diagrams of his inventions. If you plan to add inventors to your collection of radio stamps, this one is a must.

That's all for today's program. As promised, here's my mailing address. I'd be pleased to receive your comments and news for the program. Neil Carleton, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, Ontario, K0A 1A0, Canada. The address again is ... Until the next time, best wishes for good listening and collecting.